(b) The State Government have requested OMCs to set up 60 ALDS in the city.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the handling capacity of the ALDS functioning at present in Bangalore city, OMCs have reported that these are adequate to cater to the requirement of authorised vehicles fitted with approved kits. Moreover, 24 ALDS of OMCs and 10 ALDS of M/s. ELF Gas are being prepared for commissioning to meet future demand in the city.

Supply of naptha to power stations

2302. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of naptha supplied for power generation will be considerably high from July, 2005 onwards;

(b) if so, the details including total quantity of naptha and the cost of fuel supplied to five stations of Kerala located at Brahmapuram, Kozhikode, Kayamkulam, Kasarkode and Kochi for power generation during 2004-05 and the cost of naptha in the month of July, 2005 onwards, category-wise;

(c) whether steps will be taken to provide naptha at an affordable administered rate till LNG is made available for power generation to these stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The pricing of naphtha for power generation is based on an import parity pricing mechanism. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) have reported that the sales tax exemption earlier available to M/s BSES Kerala Power Ltd., Kochi and NPTC, Kayamkulam has been withdrawn effective 1st April 2005 owing to the implementation of VAT. Excise duty exemption has also been withdrawn effective 2nd July, 2005. Consequently, this would impact on the price of naphtha supplied to the power plants at Kochi and Kayamkulam.

(b) The details of the total quantity of naphtha and cost of naphtha supplied to the power stations at Kochi and Kayamkulam is given in the statement (*See* below). Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are not supplying naphtha to other power stations in Kerala.

(c) to (e) Naphtha is a decontrolled product. The price of naphtha supplied by public sector oil marketing companies to power stations in Kerala is based on the commercial considerations of both parties.

Statement

Details of total quantity of naphtha and cost of naphtha supplied to power stations namely at Kochi and Kayamkulam

S. No.	Name of Power Plant	Name of oil company supplying Naphtha	Quantity Supplied in 2004-05 (Quantity in TMT)	Weighted Average cost of Naphtha supplied during 2004-05 (Rs./MT)	Quantity supplied during the period April-July, 2005 (in TMT)	Weighted Average cost of Naphtha supplied during May*2005 (Rs./MT)	Weighted Average Cost of Naphtha during July,2005 (Rs./MT)
1.	BSES, Kochi	IOC	16.70	17,165.21	6.90	22,401.60	—
2.	NTPC, Kayamkulam	BPCL	105.92	19,297.53	58.61	—	21,655.00

*Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has not made any naphtha supplies to BSES, Kochi in July 2005.

Promotion of PNG

2303. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eco-friendly Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is cheaper than LPG cylinder;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make it available for household; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make PNG available to other States where it is not available?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, PNG is being made available by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) and Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) in house-holds in certain localities in Delhi and Mumbai respectively. It is proposed to extend